

Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood 2.0 Implementation Oversight Committee

DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, September 13, 2022
8:30 am to 1:30 pm (scheduled)

The Hippodrome at Carnation Farms
28901 NE Carnation Farm Rd., Carnation, WA 98014

Committee Members Present (Y/N)					
* = denotes caucus co-chair					
Fish Caucus		Farm Caucus		Flood Caucus	
Cindy Spiry, Snoqualmie Tribe* <i>(proxy: Matt Baerwalde - Y)</i>	Y	Bobbi Lindemulder, farmer*	Y	Angela Donaldson, Fall City Community Association*	Y
Denise Krownbell, Snohomish Forum	Y	Lauren Silver, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance	Y	Lara Thomas, City of Duvall	Y
Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy	Y	Meredith Molli, Agriculture Commission	Y		
Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes <i>(proxy: Kurt Nelson - N)</i>	Y	Dave Glenn, Sno Valley Tilth	Y		
Rick Shaffer, Snoqualmie Forum	N	Liz Stockton, King Conservation District	Y		
Ex Officio Members Present (Y/N)					
Gary Bahr, WSDA	Y	Kirk Lakey, WDFW	Y		
Josh Baldi, KC DNRP	Y	Tom Buroker, WDOE <i>(proxy: Joe Burcar - Y)</i>	Y		

I) Call to Order & Welcome Activity / Updates

Facilitator Tamie Kellogg began the meeting at 8:52 am.

a) Welcome From Sarah Perry, King County Councilmember

KC Councilmember Sarah Perry welcomed all attendees. Perry expressed appreciation for FFF participants and their commitment, work, and interconnectedness, adding that anyone should feel comfortable reaching out to her.

b) Co-Chair Acknowledgements and Introductions

The passing of Claire Dyckman, a champion of the Snoqualmie Valley and key player in the development of FFF, was acknowledged by several, along with the passing of Terry Williams, an icon in habitat restoration and brother of Daryl Williams. Updates on several projects/efforts were given, including: the Agriculture Strategic Plan, the Hood Canal Restoration project, Growth Management Act updates at WDFW, a Qualco dairy digester project in Snohomish County, the Blue Heron Slough project in Everett, a \$100K grant for work on the Griffin Creek alluvial fan project, and others.

c) Welcome Activity

Tamie Kellogg and Joan Lee asked all present to consider what vegetable or dinner table food best represents FFF for them and spend several minutes mingling and discussing. The following results were shared:

- Leftovers: You're not always sure you want to keep them, but sometimes a day later you get your best meals, as you can combine and achieve something different.
- Pickles: Start by growing the cucumber, but then it must be put with other ingredients and given time to ferment. If done right, it's delicious.
- Stew: Combination of different ingredients coming together reflects the complexity of this group, and the flavor coming out.
- Carrots: You don't know what you'll get until it's pulled up; you see the top but not what's underneath. It's also versatile and can be prepared many ways.
- Garlic: There are different pieces/cloves making up the whole. It can be sweet or spicy and takes a whole season to grow.
- Zucchini: It's versatile, comes together well with other things. There is definite abundance in the end.
- Tomatoes: A challenge to take on every year, which takes a lot of resources, planning, and knowing what you're doing to achieve the best-tasting result.
- Beets: Tart and dirty, but if time is put into them, they become amazing.

d) Questions on Written Updates Provided in Advance

Micah Wait asked if IOC members could receive a copy of high-level plans for the Griffin Creek alluvial fan

project. Joan Lee confirmed this is possible.

e) Updates from Josh Baldi

- The “Great Resignation” is impacting WLRD. In particular, Baldi noted the loss of former FFF project manager Beth leDoux to another position, and the retirement of King County Stormwater’s Brian Sleight.
- King County Budget: It’s the middle of budget season now, with the proposed budget being transmitted to King County Council (KCC) in September. As of the most recent update, no additions or rate increases have been proposed. Inflation has had impacts across the board to items such as salaries and cost of living; this might cause some modest increases should the Executive take these to KCC. The biannual fund looks solid for the next couple of years, but after that it’s uncertain.
- King County Flood Plan and Comp Plan: A report has just been received on net environmental gains. This may cause ripple effects at the state level. Baldi noted that tracking best available science for these plans can be overwhelming, and FFF should think about what it wants to accomplish together.
- Other Funding Sources: It’s uncertain when state and federal grant sources will be available and what they’ll look like. WLRD is trying to identify resources, but the Division is heavily reliant on state and federal grants. There has been a lot of emphasis on fish passage, climate equity, and other issues. 57 flood reduction grants competing for \$12 million in funds have also been submitted to the Flood Control District (FCD).

II) Comprehensive (“Comp”) Plan Policy & Narrative (Michael Murphy, DNRP; Angela Donaldson)

Donaldson said depending on how much is done today, in October the hope is to be about 80% done with drafting comp plan policy language, and the language should be ready to send to the Executive and KCC in December. Murphy confirmed that 85% completion of language should be done by end of October. April 10, 2023 is when 95% completed language is needed in the Executive’s office. A six-month public review draft period begins in June. After the Executive transmits his proposed plan, KCC has a year to work on it. KCC will look at draft policy language in October to December of this year.

Murphy called attention to the draft comp plan policy and narrative document table in today’s meeting materials, a result of work from the last comp plan subcommittee meeting and fish and farm caucus meetings. The IOC will break into caucuses and provide feedback on Columns C and D of the policy/narrative table. Column C addresses policy and narrative drafting guidance; Column D addresses County commitments outside the comp plan.

After a few clarifying questions from the group, Donaldson emphasized the IOC is tasked with framing and completing the narrative, which should be kept clean and simple with no possible contradictions. This includes specific metrics, tasks, and actions. The expectation from caucuses is concurrence on these principles, but any concerns or questions should be noted. Murphy added that King County Regional Planning’s Chris Jensen has reviewed this table document to “soften” some of the language. Regional Planning is the “gate” to the Executive’s proposed comp plan, so it’s important for them to understand the context they are bringing to this. The hope is that King County, caucus members and other stakeholders will be on the same page.

III) BREAK

IV) Comp Plan Policy: Breakout Sessions

Attendees broke into fish, farm, and flood caucuses for about an hour to discuss the comp plan policy document.

V) LUNCH BREAK

VI) Debrief Caucus Discussions on Policy and Other King County Commitments to Further FFF

The caucus groups reported out the results of their breakout session discussions, then discussed next steps.

- Farm Caucus Discussion Points:
 - One of the biggest issue: need clarity/definitions, specifically of “watershed planning process” or “watershed process.”
 - Need to resolve issue of how lost farmland is incorporated into the narrative.
 - Engagement: What is the relationship between FFF participants and the MDRC?
 - MDRC needs a balance of staff inside this process. Develop an internal process to replace the APC that didn’t work as well as we’d like and was not transparent. Bring in external Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to as needed.
 - Accountability: It’s essential that FFF has role in hearing out/input into process.
 - Need funding generally and funding strategies specifically for agricultural projects.
 - Need an FFF advisory committee.
 - Need metrics and a threshold: what is the threshold where fish or agriculture where they are no longer viable?
 - External FFF principles should be mirrored and driven internally as well.
 - Long term expectation of FFF involvement with the County.

- Need a better idea of what commitment of County and partners coming together would look like.
- Need to review our work against other County plans to ensure consistency.
- Need metrics, a nimble/dynamic dashboard, to be looked at yearly.
- Need to move this process beyond this group, engaging with communities.
- Fish Caucus Discussion Points:
 - Need to clarify that FFF is not a watershed process, but part of an overall process.
 - Expand support of fish habitat for Chinook to instead cover all salmonids/fish resources.
 - Support for flood risk reduction; clarify language addressing “conversion to agricultural land.”
 - Guidance narrative lacks specificity in how it will play out.
 - Terminology needs clarifying and built-in flexibility to address near- and future-term needs.
 - Policy should represent the need for adaptive management.
 - Clarity on MDRC: if needed, there should be a senior level specialist (not just County) to understand the permitting landscape. A high-level person with this skill set would benefit all projects going through MDRC.
 - Instead of minimizing impacts, avoid and mitigate them when possible.
 - MDRC is a good chance to slow the process down if needed. Slow down to go fast later.
- Flood Caucus Discussion Points:
 - Language is cumbersome and could be cleaned up.
 - Need aggressive funding strategy in flood hazard management plan.
 - Are all projects being run through MDRC, or just capital, or drainage, etc.? Need project criteria.
 - Would like definition behind metrics and communication: which project, who it gets communicated to, how it’s tracked.
 - Flood Risk Reduction: not just ecological reasons, but integrated ecological function. Is the County committed to restoring ecological processes?
 - If not all salmonids, the protection list should be flexible/evolving.
 - Climate change: want consistency in land use code and conversion.
 - How are partners determined?
 - How do we assess the MDRC and FFF? It should be a consistent assessment, a partner assessment process as part of the watershed process.
 - Agree that FFF is not really a watershed process.
 - Need communication dashboard/pathway.
 - Ensure narrative meets intent.
- Next Steps: Tamie Kellogg said the IOC needs to give the County feedback. She noted work is needed on definitions, and on clarifying items under Column D of the policy/narrative table. Kellogg also noted there seem to be some more clear suggestions for Column C of the table for Michael Murphy to update in his next draft. Kellogg said the next step for all this is the FFF comp plan subcommittee, which is to reconvene the week of September 27th – 30th. The subcommittee will receive an updated table document and the notes with the combined caucus feedback from today. The subcommittee will decide if they need an additional meeting, and the co-chairs will decide if the caucuses need to meet. Kellogg added that another subcommittee meeting and review of policy language was likely before the IOC takes up the discussion at its December meeting. Murphy said language should be well in hand by October.

VII) Wrap Up/Adjourn (*Tamie Kellogg*)

Kellogg thanked everyone for their patience over the years of the pandemic, noting that things seem to flow better when the group meets in person. Joan Lee thanked all for attending. The next IOC meeting will be December 7.

The meeting ended at 1:12 pm.